

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 CEA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2592

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1027

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PFOR, HO

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: REQUEST FOR MULTILATERAL INFORMATION
ON HOST GOVERNMENT

REF: STATE 037591

THE FOLLOWING ARE ANSWERS TO THE LETTERED QUESTIONS POSED IN
PARA 7 OF REFTEL:

(A) HONDURAS' PRIMARY MULTILATERAL INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES
IN 1976 ARE GENERALIZED IN NATURE. ESSENTIALLY THE GOH WILL
ACT IN MULTILATERAL BODIES SO AS TO OBTAIN AS MANY BENEFITS
AS POSSIBLE FOR THE COUNTRY. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT
HONDURAS WILL TAKE ANY INITIATIVES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANI-
ZATIONS TO WHICH IT BELONGS (SEE B) OR TO PROPOSE INDIVIDUALS
FOR LEADING POSITIONS IN THOSE ORGANIZATIONS;

(B) THE POSITIONS THE GOH ADOPTS IN MULTILATERAL BODIES ARE
INFLUENCED BY "SOLIDARITY" WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.
FOR EXAMPLE, ITS POSTIONS ON REMOVING OAS SANCTIONS AGAINST
CUBA, ITS SUPPORT FOR PANAMA IN REGARD TO THE CANAL AND ITS
OBJECTION TO "DISCRIMINATION" AGAINST VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR
IN THE TRADE ACT ARE MANIFESTATIONS OF THIS GENERAL RELATION-
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SHIP. FURTHERMORE, HONDURAS HAS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH

CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES WITHIN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF LATIN AMERICA. FOR EXAMPLE, IT SUPPORTS GUATEMALA'S POSITION IN REGARD TO BELIZE, AND IS NEGOTIATING WITH THE OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES REGARDING THE FORMATION OF AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMUNITY. ADDITIONALLY, IT IS ENGAGED IN A NEGOTIATION OF ITS DISPUTE WITH EL SALVADOR, AN ISSUE THAT AFFECTS THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE AREA. HONDURAS BASICALLY LIMITS ITS INITIATIVES IN MULTILATERAL BODIES TO NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVED WITH THE FORMATION OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMUNITY AND, TO A LESSER DEGREE, IN RELATION TO A SETTLEMENT WITH EL SALVADOR;

(C) THE GOH ONLY ON RARE OCCASIONS FULLY INSTRUCTS ITS DELEGATIONS TO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS; IN GENERAL, DELEGATIONS ARE GIVEN GUIDELINES ABOUT POLICY RATHER THAN BRIEFING PAPERS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES. OFTEN NO INSTRUCTIONS ARE GIVEN TO DELEGATES OR DELEGATIONS ATTENDING SPECIAL INTEREST OR TECHNICAL MEETINGS. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DOES NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN A CONSTANT AND EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER HONDURAN DELEGATIONS WHILE MEETINGS ARE IN PROGRESS. THE DELEGATIONS OFTEN DO NOT REPORT UNTIL THEY RETURN FROM MEETINGS; IN ANY EVENT, THE LACK OF INTERCHANGE BETWEEN DELEGATIONS AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO ISSUE TIMELY AND REALISTIC INSTRUCTIONS DURING MEETINGS;

(D) HONDURAN REPRESENTATIVES TO MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS DO NOT HAVE ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL INDEPENDENT POLITICAL POWER WHICH MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO INSTRUCT OR CONTROL THEM; AND; AND

(E) THE GOH IS NORMALLY RECEPTIVE TO U.S. REPRESENTATION ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES AND IS GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. POSITIONS ON SUCH ISSUES. THE CONCEPT OF A USG/GOH INTERACTION ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES IS ACCEPTED AS PART OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. HOWEVER, THE GOH VERY RARELY SOLICITS USG SUPPORT THROUGH THE EMBASSY FOR SUPPORT ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES.

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